CLMPTO

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1.   A communications method for transferring electronic data to users of a communications system, the method comprising:

establishing a connection between a client and a host, the client including a browser application configured to render data encapsulated in a standard Internet content format;

receiving electronic data from the host in response to a data request transmitted from the client; and

at the client, simultaneously executing multiple instantiations of the browser application in response to the electronic data received from the host,

wherein at least one instantiation of the browser application is configured to exchange messages with at least one other instantiation of the browser application.

2.   The communications method of claim 1 further comprising rendering a first graphical user interface within a first instantiation of the browser and rendering a second graphical user interface in a second instantiation of the browser.

3.   The communication method of claim 1 further comprising establishing a communication pathway between multiple instantiations of the browser application by executing coordinating code in each instantiation of the browser.

4. The communications method of claim 3 wherein the coordinating code is written in a standard Internet content format.

5.   The communications method of claim 1 further comprising establishing a communications session in a first instantiation of the browser.

6.   The communications method of claim 5 further comprising controlling the communications session in the first instantiation of the browser.

7.   The communications method of claim 5 further comprising displaying content associated with the session in a second instantiation of the browser application.

8.   The communications method of claim 1 wherein the data request is transmitted using an OSP client application.

9.   The communications method of claim 1 wherein the data request is transmitted using the browser application.

10.   The communications method of claim 1 wherein the browser application is embedded within an OSP client application.

11.   The communications method of claim 1 wherein the standard Internet content format comprises at least one of HTML, CSS, and Java Script.

12.   The communications method of claim 1 wherein a first instantiation of the browser comprises a welcome screen.

13.   The communications method of claim 1 wherein a first instantiation of the browser comprises a toolbar.

14.   The communications method of claim 1 wherein a first instantiation of the browser comprises an electronic mail window.

15.   The communications method of claim 1 wherein a first instantiation of the browser comprises an instant messaging window.

16   The communications method of claim 1 wherein a first instantiation of the browser comprises a search window.

17.   A computer program for transferring electronic data to users of a communications system, the computer program being stored on a computer readable medium and comprising instructions for:

establishing a connection between a client and a host, the client including a browser application configured to render data encapsulated in a standard Internet content format;

receiving electronic data from the host in response to a data request transmitted from the client; and

at the client, simultaneously executing multiple instantiations of the browser application in response to the electronic data received from the host,

wherein at least one instantiation of the browser application is configured to exchange messages with at least one other instantiation of the browser application.

18.   The computer program of claim 17 wherein the computer readable medium comprises a disc.

19.   The computer program of claim 17 wherein the computer readable medium comprises a client device.

20.   The computer program of claim 17 wherein the computer readable medium comprises a host device.

21.   The computer program of claim 17 wherein the computer readable medium comprises a propagated signal.

22.   A communications apparatus for transferring electronic data to users of a communications system, the apparatus being configured to:

establish a connection between a client and a host, the client including a browser application configured to render data encapsulated in a standard Internet content format;

receive electronic data from the host in response to a data request transmitted from the client; and

at the client, simultaneously execute multiple instantiations of the browser application in response to the electronic data received from the host,

wherein at least one instantiation of the browser application is configured to exchange messages with at least one other instantiation of the browser application.

23.   A communications method for transferring electronic data to users of a communications system, the method comprising:

establishing a connection between a client and a host, the client including a browser application configured to render data encapsulated in a standard Internet content format; and

transmitting electronic data from the host in response to a data request received from the client,

wherein the electronic data comprises instructions for simultaneously executing multiple instantiations of the browser application, at least one instantiation of the browser application being configured to exchange messages with at least one other instantiation of the browser application.

--24.   The communications method of claim 1 wherein each instantiation of the browser application is configured to exchange messages with at least one other instantiation of the browser application.

25.   The computer program of claim 17 wherein each instantiation of the browser application is configured to exchange messages with at least one other instantiation of the browser application.

26.   The communications method of claim 1 wherein the messages exchanged between instantiations of the browser application include state information.

27.   The communications method of claim 1 wherein the messages exchanged between instantiations of the browser application include session content.

28.   The communications method of claim 1 wherein the messages exchanged between instantiations of the browser application include communications parameters for maintaining a connection between instantiations of the browser application.

29.   The computer program of claim 17 wherein the messages exchanged between instantiations of the browser application include state information.

30.   The computer program of claim 17 wherein the messages exchanged between instantiations of the browser application include session content.

31.   The computer program of claim 17 wherein the messages exchanged between instantiations of the browser application include communications parameters for maintaining a connection between instantiations of the browser application.

32.   The computer method of claim 1 wherein a first instantiation of the browser application is dedicated to providing a first type of online service and at least one other instantiation of the browser application is dedicated to providing a second and different type of online service.

33.   The computer method of claim 32 wherein the first type of online service is an OSP service and the second type of online service is an instant messaging service.

34.   The computer program of claim 17 wherein a first instantiation of the browser application is dedicated to providing a first online service and at least one other instantiation of the browser application is dedicated to providing a second and different online service.

35.   The computer program of claim 34 wherein the first online service is an OSP service and the second online service is an instant messaging service.

36.   The computer method of claim 1 wherein a first instantiation of the browser application is configured to receive content from a second instantiation of the browser application, said content being stored on a server that is not otherwise configured to communicate with the first instantiation of the browser application.

37.   The computer method of claim 36 wherein the first instantiation of the browser application is configured for email, the second instantiation of the browser application is configured for instant messaging, and the server is an instant messaging server.

38.   The computer program of claim 17 wherein a first instantiation of the browser application is configured to receive content from a second instantiation of the browser application, said content being stored on a server that is not otherwise configured to communicate with the first instantiation of the browser application.

39.   The computer program of claim 38 wherein the first instantiation of the browser application is configured for email, the second instantiation of the browser application is configured for instant messaging, and the server is an instant messaging server.--